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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Linda B. Buck and Richard Axel
U.S. Serial No. : 09/771,209 Group Art Unit: 1646
Filed : January 26, 2001 Examiner: J. Ulm
For : Odorant Receptors And Uses Thereof

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
April 25, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO MARCH 25, 2002 OFFICE ACTION

This Communication is submitted in response to the Office Action issued March 25, 2002 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the March 25, 2002 Office Action is due April 25, 2002. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.

REMARKS

Election of Species Requirement

On page 2 of the March 25, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner to whom the subject application is assigned required applicants under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species of amino acid sequence for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

The Examiner stated that claims 1 to 24 are generic to isolated nucleic acids encoding any one of twenty disclosed patentably distinct species of amino acid sequences comprising

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